IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) Water-soluble amphiphilic cationic associative polyurethanes of formula (I):

$$R–X–(P)_n–[L–(Y)_m]_r–L'–(P')_p–X'–R' \qquad (I)$$

in which:
R and R', are identical or different, and represent a hydrophobic group or a hydrogen atom;
X and X', are identical or different, and represent a group comprising an amine functional group which may or may not carry a hydrophobic group or an L» group;
L, L' and L», are identical or different, and represent a group derived from diisocyanate;
P and P', are identical or different, and represent a group comprising an amine functional group which may or may not carry a hydrophobic group;
Y represents a hydrophilic group;
r is an integer between 1 and 100,
n, m and p have values, each independently of the others, between 0 and 1000;
the molecule comprising at least one protonated or quaternized amine functional group and at least one hydrophobic group.

2. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein the only hydrophobic groups are the R and R' groups.

3. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein R and R′ independently represent a hydrophobic group; X and X′ are L», n and p have values between 1 and 1000; and L, L', L», P, P′, Y and m are the same as Claim 1.

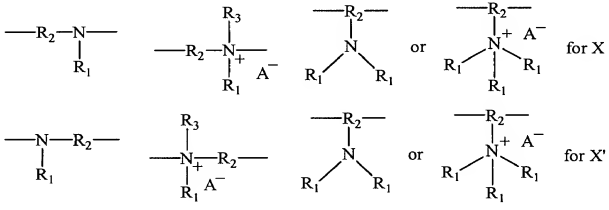
4. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein R and R′ independently represent a hydrophobic group; X and X′ are L», n and p have the value 0; and L, L', L», Y and m are the same as Claim 1.

5. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein R and R′ independently represent a hydrophobic group; X and X′ comprise a quartenary amine; n and p have the value 0; and L, L', Y and m are the same as Claim 1.

6. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, which exhibits a number-average molecular mass between 400 and 500,000.

7. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein R and R′ represent a radical or a polymer with a saturated or unsaturated and linear or branched hydrocarbonaceous chain, in which chain one or more of the carbon atoms is optionally replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of S, N, O and P, or a radical comprising a silicone or perfluorinated chain.

8. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein X and X′ represent one of the formulae:



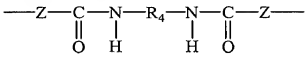
in which:

R_2 represents a linear or branched alkylene radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which optionally may comprise a saturated or unsaturated ring, or an arylene radical, wherein one or more carbon atoms optionally is replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, S, O or P;

R_1 and R_3, are identical or different, are a linear or branched C_1-C_{30} alkyl or alkenyl radical or an aryl radical, wherein at least one of the carbon atoms optionally can be replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, S, O and P;

A^- is a physiologically acceptable counterion.

9. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein L, L', and L» are identical or different, represent the formula:

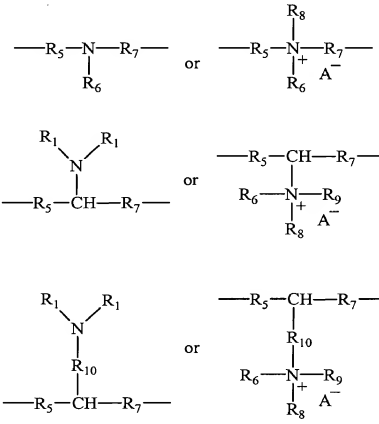


in which:

Z represents –O–, –S–, or –NH–; and

R_4 represents a linear or branched alkylene radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which optionally may comprise a saturated or unsaturated ring, or an arylene radical, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms optionally is replaced by a heteroatom chosen from N, S, O and P.

10. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein P and P' are identical or different, and are selected from the following formulae:



R_5 and R_7 are identical or different and represents a linear or branched alkylene radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which optionally may comprise a saturated or unsaturated ring, or an arylene radical, wherein one or more carbon atoms optionally is replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, S, O or P;

R_6, R_8 and R_9 are identical or different, are a linear or branched C_1-C_{30} alkyl or alkenyl radical or an aryl radical, wherein at least one of the carbon atoms optionally can be replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, S, O and P;
R_{10} represents a linear or branched alkylene group which is optionally unsaturated and which optionally comprises one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P, and
A^- is a physiologically acceptable counterion.

11. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein Y represents a glycol selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol and propylene glycol or a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethers, sulphonated polyesters and sulphonated polyamides.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for using a polyurethane as defined in Claim 1 as a thickener or gelling agent comprising adding said polyurethane to a composition which is to be used for topical application as a cosmetic.

13. (Withdrawn) A cosmetic composition thickened or gellified with at least one water-soluble polyurethane according to Claim 1.

14. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 6, which has a number-average content mass ranging from 1,000 to 400,000.

15. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 7, which has a number-average molecular weight ranging from 1,000 to 300,000.

16. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 1, wherein r is an integer between 1 and 50.

17. (Withdrawn) The polyurethane according to Claim 16, wherein r is an integer between 1 and 25.

18. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic composition comprising ~~water-dispersible amphiphilic cationic associative~~ polyurethanes of formula (I):

~~in which:~~

~~R–X–(P)$_n$–[L–(Y)$_m$]$_r$–L'–(P')$_p$–X'–R'~~ ~~(I)~~

X–[L–(Y)$_m$]$_r$–L'–X' (I)

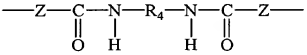
~~R and R', are identical or different, and represent a hydrophobic group or a hydrogen atom;~~

X and X'~~, are identical or different, and represent a group comprising an amine functional group which may or may not carry a hydrophobic group or an L" group~~ are each independently selected from the group consisting of cationic primary, secondary or tertiary amines;

wherein said primary, secondary or tertiary amines are protonated; and

wherein said tertiary amines are optionally quarternized wherein said protonated or quarternized cationic amines have a corresponding anion which optionally is comprised of a hydrophobic group;

wherein L and ~~L',~~ and L" are identical or different, and represent the formula:



in which:

Z represents –O–, –S–, or –NH–; and

R_4 represents a linear or branched alkylene radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which optionally may comprise a saturated or unsaturated ring, or an arylene radical, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms optionally is replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, S, O and P;

~~P and P', are identical or different, and represent a group comprising an amine functional group which may or may not carry a hydrophobic group;~~

wherein Y represents a hydrophilic ~~group~~ polyether group;

wherein r is an integer between 1 and 100;

wherein n, m and p have values, each independently of the others, between 0 and 1000; and

~~the molecule comprises at least one protonated or quaternised amine functional group and at least one hydrophobic group~~

wherein said polyurethane is cationically charged;

wherein said polyurethane is substantially water soluble or forms a gel in water.

19. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 18, wherein the only hydrophobic groups are the R and R' groups.

20. - 22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 18, which exhibits a number-average molecular mass of between about 400 and ~~500,000~~ about 100,000.

24. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 18, wherein R and R' represent a radical or a polymer with a saturated or unsaturated and linear or branched hydrocarbonaceous chain, in which chain one or more of the carbon atoms is optionally replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of S, N, O and P, or a radical comprising a silicone or perfluorinated chain.

25. – 29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 23, which has a number-average content mass ranging from ~~1,000 to 400,000~~ about 40,000 to about 80,000.

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 18, wherein r is an integer between 1 and 50.

33. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 32, wherein r is an integer between 1 and 25.

34. (Withdrawn) A cosmetic process comprising the step of applying the cosmetic composition of claim 18 to hair, skin, nails, lips, or eyelashes.